

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 7, 2007 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment submitted in order to better define the present invention over the cited references.

In that Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Restilli et al, U.S. Patent 6,419,658.

Accordingly, Applicant has now canceled claims 1, 2, 4 and 17 and has amended the only remaining independent claim, claim 3, in order to distinguish that claim, along with the dependent claims 5-16.

Initially, claim 3 has been amended to change "plunger bulb" to recite "plunger piston" for consistency with the specification (note page 6, line 7).

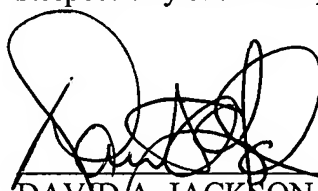
Claim 3, however, has been further amended to recite that the plunger flange engages with the ears located on the sleeve assembly to separate and spread them apart on insertion of the plunger into the syringe barrel. The support for that added limitation is provided on page 5, last paragraph.

Turning now to Restilli, there is a description of a syringe retraction mechanism that is substantially different than the syringe retraction mechanism of the present invention since Restilli requires an intermediate flange 8 to actuate the release mechanism, (see column 5, lines 52-63) and not the plunger flange that terminates the plunger arm as with the present invention. Not requiring an intermediate flange provides the immediate advantage that the syringe retraction mechanism of the present invention may be readily retrofitted to standard syringe.

It is therefore submitted that the Restilli reference neither suggests nor teaches toward the release mechanism of the syringe retracting arrangement as now defined in Claim 3 and its dependent claims and, therefore, it is submitted that the claims are both novel and unobvious over the Restilli disclosure.

Accordingly, an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Jackson', is written over a horizontal line.

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